

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 086852

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSC-05 SS-15

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SP-02 /043 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:FJTATU:GBROBERTS:MFG

APPROVED BY EA - MR. HABIB

EA:RHMILLER

PM/ISO:JSCOTT (SUBS)

INR/DDC:RCURL/EFITZGERALD (SUBS)

CIA/DDO/EA:TSHACKLEY (DRAFT)

DOD/ISA:LT COL KING (DRAFT)

NSC:TBARNES

S/S: JLHOGANSON

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O R 100301Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

INFO DOD

CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 086852

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: U.S. FORCE WITHDRAWALS

REFS: A. BANGKOK 8616; B. BANGKOK 8885; C. BANGKOK 8548;
D. STATE 81254

1. THANAT'S APPROACH TO YOU SEEMS CONSISTENT WITH SENI'S
CURRENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, SENI HAS NOT
YET BEEN MADE PRIME MINISTER, HAS NOT YET FORMED A
GOVERNMENT, AND HAS VACILLATED WIDELY IN THE PAST ON THE
ISSUE OF A U.S. RESIDUAL PRESENCE. THEREFORE, WHILE WE
AGREE THAT A FEW DISCREET HINTS AS TO WHAT SORT OF PRE-
SENCE WE MIGHT WANT TO RETAIN IN THAILAND COULD BE HELPFUL,

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WE DO NOT FEEL THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO BE SPECIFIC. ANY

HINTS TO BE MADE SHOULD BE VERY BROAD AND GENERAL IN NATURE.

2. ACCORDINGLY, IF ASKED BY THE THAI ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF REINSTITUTING NEGOTIATIONS, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT WITH THE RTG DECISION OF MARCH 20, THE UNITED STATES HAS LOST CERTAIN IMPORTANT INTELLIGENCE FACILITIES AND OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSIT RIGHTS. AT THIS POINT WE

ARE UNSURE AS TO HOW WE WILL COMPENSATE FOR THIS LOSS OF CAPABILITY BUT WE NOW ARE WORKING ALTERNATIVES. YOU SHOULD ASK THE THAI IF THEY HAVE ANY THOUGHTS AS TO HOW WE MIGHT SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS IN THAILAND.

3. IN DROPPING ANY SUCH HINT, HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT OUR CURRENT POSTURE IS ONE OF REACTING TO THE OFFICIAL THAI REQUEST OF MARCH 20. IF THE THAI WANT TO CHANGE THAT REQUEST, THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE IT CLEAR JUST WHAT THEY HAVE IN MIND. WE DO NOT WANT A REPLAY OF THE PAST FOUR MONTHS. KISSINGER

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